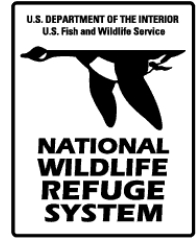


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Join Us for Free, Fun Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

May, 2015



REGISTRATION & CAPACITY:

All refuge programs are FREE, but space may be limited. Preregistration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. **Please Note:** If a program requires preregistration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.

Programs conducted in the auditorium are limited to 75 attendees. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Admission of additional attendees will stop when capacity has been reached.

Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and/or insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA.

Behind the Scenes Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Saturday, May 2nd @ 9:30 am; Sunday, May 3rd @ 1:00 pm; Sunday, May 10th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, May 16th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, May 17th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, May 23rd @ 9:30 am; Sunday, May 24th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, May 30th @ 9:30 am; and Sunday, May 31st @ 1:00 pm

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle – based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. ***Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation. *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member.***

Woodcock Walk

Friday, May 8th @ 7:15 pm

Each spring American woodcocks engage in one of nature's most fascinating courtship displays. Here's your chance to witness this "sky dance" up close and in-person! This program is appropriate for ages 8 and older. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Meet the program leader on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. Bring binoculars and a flashlight. Program is limited to 15 participants. **Preregistration required**

Whip-poor-will Walk

Saturday, May 9th @ 7:00pm, Saturday, May 16th at 7:00 pm, Saturday, May 23rd at 7:30pm, and Saturday, May 30th @ 7:30 pm

Have you ever heard a strange bird singing in the background of a movie and wondered what it was? You may have been listening to the song of the Whip-poor-will. Join Nancy Landry, refuge volunteer and avid birder, for an evening of listening for the song of the Whip-poor-will and other birds of the nighttime. Dress appropriately for the weather conditions. Meet the program leader on the deck of the visitor contact station at parking lot 1. Bring binoculars and a flashlight. Program is appropriate for older children and adults. Limited to 15 participants. **Preregistration required**

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, May 9th @ 1:30 pm

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. Venue capacity is limited to 75 attendees (first-come, first-served). Admission to this program is free and **preregistration is NOT required**.

NEW! Nelson Island Tour

Sunday, May 10th, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Explore another part of the refuge – this time, on the mainland. Join a ranger for a tour of a beautiful spot that few people visit: Nelson Island. If we're lucky, we might catch a glimpse of a great horned owl or a nesting osprey. Learn about the history of this little known refuge jewel. If weather permits, we'll take a short walk along the marsh to an area with great views. (Muddy, wet areas are possible, so rubber boots are recommended.) Consider bringing binoculars and/or a camera. **Program is limited to 8 people. Preregistration is required.**

NEW! Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge - Behind the Scenes Tour!

Friday, May 15th from 9:00 am - Noon

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of wildlife habitats and learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for conservation. Consider bringing along binoculars and a camera. The tour is limited to 14 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. This is a vehicle-based tour, with limited

stops on the refuge. **Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Parker River NWR visitor center in Newburyport no later than 9:00 am OR in the Great Bay NWR parking lot in Newington, NH no later than 9:45 am.** (Indicate location you prefer at time of registration.) *Preregistration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation.* *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a refuge staff member. *Please call (978) 465-5753 to register for this program.* **Preregistration required.** For directions to the refuge, click on this link: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.htm

NEW! – Exploring Great Bay By Mountain Bike!

Friday, May 29th from 9:00 to 11:30 am

Join a refuge ranger for a **behind the scenes tour, by mountain bike**, of Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge, located in Newington, NH. Participants will have an opportunity to visit areas of the refuge that are not normally open to the public. See a diversity of habitats and learn how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is managing this very special landscape for wildlife. Cyclists will travel over unpaved surfaces, with a few moderate hills. The distance covered will depend on how many stops are made and how much time is spent at each stop. Tour duration will be about 2.5 hours. Appropriate for adults and children age 16 or older. **Each participant must provide a mountain bike, helmet, and water bottle.** Insect repellent, sun block, binoculars and/or a camera are optional (provided these items can be safely stowed while biking). Meet the ranger in the Great Bay NWR parking lot 15 minutes before the tour start time. Limited to 10 participants.

Preregistration required. For directions to the refuge, click on this link:

http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.htm

Monarchs and Milkweed Time!

Saturday, May 30th @ 2:30 pm

Come be a monarch butterfly! Start as an egg, eat your way through milkweed as a caterpillar, turn into an adult butterfly and migrate to Mexico. Then make milkweed “seed bombs” and plant milkweed seeds to take home to your own garden. Join Katie Banks Hone, *The Monarch Gardener*, for this fun, hands-on program. Meet up at the refuge visitor center 15 minutes ahead of the program start time. Appropriate for children age 2 and up. **NO preregistration for this program**

These Visitor Center Exhibits Change Monthly:

Artist of the Month Gallery: Each month a different photographer or artist displays their nature and/or wildlife-related fine art in the refuge visitor center auditorium

Photographic Society Slide Show: Just inside the visitor center’s front door is a large video monitor that displays the latest nature and wildlife-themed slide show that was produced by members of the refuge’s very own photo club. A new slide show, set to music, and focusing on a unique theme, is produced each month.